

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
LONG ASHTON
RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1898.

Bristol :
E. H. WEBB, BEDMINSTER PRINTING WORKS.

1899.



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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1898.

To the Chairman and Members of the Long Ashton
Rural District Council.

LONG ASHTON,

January 15th, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to place before you my Report on the
Sanitary Condition of the district during the year 1898.

Since the last Report that portion of the
district known as South Bristol, and Bedminster Without
has been included in the City of Bristol. (Bristol Cor-
poration Act, 1897).

Your area and population have been decreased
in consequence.

The alteration in size of the district makes a comparison between the present and previous years untrustworthy, especially as the part removed being densely populated, had a considerable influence upon the birth and death rate of the whole area.

I have based my calculations as to Births, Deaths, and Sickness on the estimated population of that now known as the Long Ashton Rural District, at the present time, 19,405.

BIRTHS.

The Births in the year were 425, giving a rate of 21·901 per thousand population.

	BOYS.	GIRLS.	TOTAL.	
In Bedminster Sub-District ...	18	9	27	} Were Registered.
In Long Ashton District ...	80	81	161	
In St. George District ...	57	59	116	
In Yatton District	64	57	121	
	<u>219</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>425</u>	

The excess of Births over Deaths (natural increase of population) was 172.

DEATHS.

The Deaths in the whole Union, at all ages, and from all causes, were 253, the rate being 13·038.

In Bedminster Sub-District	14	} Were Registered.
In Long Ashton District ...	...	75
In Workhouse ...	...	45
In St. George District ...	...	50
In Yatton District ...	...	69
		<hr/> 253	

INFANT MORTALITY.

During this year, 425 Children were born, of whom 39 died under one year, giving an infant death-rate of 91·7647.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The death-rate per 1000 from Zymotic Disease is 1515.

From Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	1	} Died in the Year
From Measles ...	...	5
From Whooping Cough ...	...	1
From Diarrhoea ...	...	3
		<hr/> 10	

SICKNESS.

Under the "Notification of Infectious Disease Act" 30 cases were reported to me.

25	Cases of Scarlet Fever.
3	Cases of Enteric or Typhoid Fever.
1	Case of Erysipelas.
1	Case of Diphtheria.
<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 5px auto;"/>	
30	

SCARLET FEVER.

Although 25 Cases of Scarlet Fever were reported, there was no death, 14 of these occurred in the Yatton District.

The disease was imported from London, a boy recovering from it came to Kingston Seymour and stayed in a house where there were several children, they took the disease, which was of a very mild type. The Mother thinking it was Measles, did not have Medical advice. The children ran about and went to school.

It was not until several cases arose that notice was taken of it. The mischief had then spread beyond its original source.

Five cases occurred at Ridgehill, Wroughton, all in one house.

Your Inspector and myself saw to these. There were no further cases. Five cases at Pill, all very mild.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Three cases were reported, two at Kingston Seymour. One near the Nailsea Railway Station.

This disease is essentially a filth disease, and may be generated independently of previous cases.

As it occurs in Rural Districts, my own experience leads me to believe that the great majority of scattered cases, and many of the first cases of isolated outbreaks are due to poisoning of air, drinking water, or other ingesta with decomposing filth. But whether the disease is produced by befouled air or polluted water, there is a constantly accumulating amount of evidence which goes to prove that neither the air nor the water need be tainted with the specific contagium of the disease.

At the same time there is no fact more clearly established in preventative medicine than this, that whenever the disease is developed, the bowel discharges possess an infective power, which, where local conditions assist, can operate with terrible force and often at long distances from the sick.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case was reported from the Bristol General Hospital. It was that of a boy from Backwell Common, who attended as an out-patient.

Of all diseases not even excepting Scarlet Fever, this is the most liable to be disseminated through the agency of schools, partly because the symptoms are frequently so mild as not to prevent children from attending school, but chiefly because the disease is peculiarly liable to be spread by the breath, and may be disseminated by the throat after children are sent back to school apparently well.

The greatest care ought therefore to be exercised, not only in keeping children from infected houses, from attending school, or mixing with others, but in not allowing those children who have been

attacked to return to school until all symptoms of debility and relaxed condition of throat have disappeared.

SMALL POX.

There has been no case during the year.

This satisfactory condition will, I fear, not continue, unless the New Vaccination Act is at once repealed.

MEASLES.

This disease has been very prevalent during the year, principally at Nailsea and Pill. Five deaths have occurred from it at Pill.

It is not included in the "Notifiable" diseases in this district.

WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease has been prevalent during the year, in the same localities.

The disease is highly infectious, and the contagium is readily conveyed by fomites and by the clothes of those in attendance on the sick, or who may visit them.

The disease is largely spread by "neighbouring" and by school agency, and as in the case of Measles by an utter disregard of any proper precaution in the way of isolation or the like.

The consequence is that the epidemic continues to spread so long as susceptible victims are to be found in the community, and only dies out for a time, when almost all these have been attacked.

INFLUENZA.

A few cases were reported.

The baleful influence of the previous epidemics has not yet disappeared from the district.

The general debility and ill health which follow, renders the subject more liable to other complaints.

HEART DISEASE.

35 died in the year.

LUNG DISEASE.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy 38 died.
9 under 5 years of age. 29 over 5 years.

PHTHISIS.

16 died of Pulmonary Consumption.

THE ASHTON BROOK.

A complaint having been made by the Bristol Sanitary Authority as to the contamination of this brook, by the sewage discharged into it, from part of the village of Long Ashton.

Your Council appointed a Committee to investigate the matter, and in accordance with their Report, a notice was sent to the owner of every house that drains into it, requesting them to discontinue the nuisance.

The Somerset County Council has also appointed a Committee to inspect it.

Pending their Report the matter remains in abeyance.

I should like to point out, that that portion of Bower Ashton formerly included in your district, but now transferred to the City of Bristol, still continues to discharge its sewage into the brook.

CAUSES AFFECTING THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

1st.—Bad Water supply in some of the parishes, wells as a rule shallow, and often polluted with soakage from highly-manured soil ; wells often in proximity to pigstyes, &c.

2nd.—In-attention to cesspits and drains where they exist.

3rd.—Damp houses from bad construction and dilapidation.

4th.—Want of fire-places in bed-rooms for warmth in sickness, and ventilation at all times.

5th.—Overcrowding. There are not enough of cottages for the working classes in the district.

6th.—The impossibility of isolating the patients, and the difficulty of disinfecting and properly carrying out Sanitary measures in crowded cottages.

7th.—The practice of sending Clothes to the laundry without disinfection.

8th.—The reckless way in which parents permit children recovered from infectious disease to return to school, or to play with healthy children.

WORK DONE.

The measures taken and advice given have been directed to the removal or lessening of the evils I have mentioned.

Systematic inspection has been made, and especial attention given, when required.

In infectious cases, isolation and disinfection were carried out, so far as the means at our disposal allowed.

This consisted in the burning of Sulphur in closed rooms, cleansing the walls and ceilings, boiling all clothing that admits of boiling, and burning that which cannot be treated with sulphur or boiled.

The distribution of disinfectants supplied by the Council to the Inspector.

For the furtherance of a better Water supply, wells have been cleaned, and the surrounding soil removed.

Samples of Water have been analysed, and dealt with as the case required.

WATER SUPPLY.

At Yatton and Kingston Seymour the water is unsatisfactory, the supply bad owing to the dry summer, and many have to fetch it from a long distance. Many of the Villages are supplied by the Bristol Water Company and the Portishead Company.

The upper part of Nailsea is supplied gratuitously by Mr. Edgar Thatcher, of the Nailsea Heath Brewery.

The lower part of Nailsea is not well supplied.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOSEPH FULLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

(B) M 11

TABLE of POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.														
	Census, 1891.	Estimate to middle of 1898.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.				Smallpox	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.			
									Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.										Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing	Puerperal.					
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
BEDMINSTER SUB-DISTRICT...		950	27	Under 5 5 upw'ds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
LONG ASHTON DISTRICT ...	6203	6415	161	Under 5 5 upw'ds	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WORKHOUSE	370	420		Under 5 5 upw'ds	H	
ST. GEORGE'S DISTRICT ...	6944	6981	116	Under 5 5 upw'ds	...	2 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
YATTON DISTRICT	4631	4639	121	Under 5 5 upw'ds	...	4 10	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS.....		19405	425	Under 5 5 upw'ds	...	6 14	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District. *Yes.* Since when? *June 8th, 1891.* Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any other diseases that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated, or if not within the District, state where it is situated.

M 3
(A)

TABLE of **DEATHS** during the Year 1898, in the LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to DISEASES
AGES, and LOCALITIES.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institu- tions being shown as separ- ate localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.)	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																						
	AT ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	*	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.	
													Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal														
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
BEDMINSTER SUB-DISTRICT	14	3	1	...	...	5	5	Under 5 5 upw'ds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	2	4
LONG ASHTON DISTRICT ..	75	13	3	3	1	19	36	Under 5 5 upw'ds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	1	4	9	13
WORKHOUSE	45	1	...	2	2	8	32	Under 5 5 upw'ds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	1	...	29	44
ST. GEORGE'S DISTRICT ...	50	7	6	...	5	10	22	Under 5 5 upw'ds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	2	...	4	1	...	4	...	5	13
YATTON DISTRICT	69	15	1	2	5	10	36	Under 5 5 upw'ds	1	1	3	4	11	11	...	3	11	16
TOTALS	253	39	11	7	13	52	131	Under 5 5 upw'ds	1	5	1	2	1	2	16	9	1	...	1	27	47
									...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	16	29	34	...	9	114	206

* The heading of column 19 is left blank for the insertion of Influenza, or any other disease which it may be thought desirable to record.



BRISTOL :

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